

楚歌  
Chu Ge  
20. Song of Chu

Tuning and mode not stated but must be  
楚商調 *Chushang Diao* (= 淒涼 *Qiliang*).  
2 4 5 6 1 2 3 (2 = B-B flat).  
Prelude and 11 Sections, titled but unnumbered.

太古遺音 *Taigu Yiyin* (1511)  
1st two lines are 力拔山操, a poem  
in 樂府詩集 *Yuefu Shiji* attributed to  
項羽 Xiang Yu; the rest not yet identified.

(Prelude; acts as a *Chushang* Modal Prelude (楚商調意 *Chushang Diaoyi*)

*slow and free*

力拔山兮氣蓋世，時不運兮骓不逝。  
Li4 ba2 shan1 xi qi gai shi, shi bu li xi zhui1 / Zhui  
My strength can move mountains, with power to cover the earth, but times are not lucky, (and my horse) will not go on.

苟二也兮勿遽兮苟五也兮勿遠兮苟六也兮立兮苟七也兮

骓不逝兮可奈何？虞兮虞兮奈何？  
Zhui bu shi xi ke nai he? Yu xi Yu xi ke nai he?  
If Zhui will no go on what can I do? Yu Ji, Yu Ji, what can I do?

苟三也兮勿還兮苟四也兮勿遠兮苟七也兮勿遠兮苟八也兮勿遠兮

辭父母，事君王，十年在疆場。  
Ci2 fu mu, shi jun wang, shi nian zai jiang chang.  
Leave parents, serve the king, 10 years in the frontier region.

○苟五六也兮勿遠兮苟七也兮勿遠兮